



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk - Rupanyup

BULLETIN

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 19th January 2020



PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson
Parish Secretary:
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SCHOOLS

Ss Michael & John Primary

Principal: Andrea Cox

Phone: 5382 3000

St Brigid's College

Principal: Peter Gutteridge

Phone: 5382 3545

Our Lady Help of Christians

Principal: Cathy Grace

Phone: 5385 2526

Nhill: St Patrick's

Principal: Kingsley Dalglish

We welcome Fr Peter back with us after his prayers for us at St Mary's Tomb in Sydney.

We thank Fr John for his ministry to us over these past weeks, and we pray for a blessed and safe time for him with his family in Kerala. John flies home on January 20th. He will be back with us for the last weekend of February.

Gospel Reflection Veronica Lawson rsm

To provide a reference for someone is a serious responsibility as well as a privilege because, more often than not, a good deal depends on the testimony provided in the reference. John the Baptist took it upon himself to provide a reference for Jesus. His testimony reverberates across the centuries, offering an introduction to Jesus for those who seek to understand this Jewish prophet and teacher who is more than a prophet or teacher. John wants his disciples to understand that the whole purpose of his water baptism is that Jesus "might be revealed". He wants them to know that Jesus is "of God". He is the "lamb of God", the "chosen one of God". He is the one on whom God's Spirit descends and remains. Jesus comes before the Baptist and so ranks before him. Is the author of this gospel using the character of the Baptist as a vehicle for his particular Christology or presentation of Jesus? That's what many scholars think, although some of the images in the Baptist's testimony are firmly grounded in Jewish tradition and could well come from a prophetic figure like John the Baptist. Maybe the answer to the question is "yes, but not exclusively". Whether the images have their origin with John the Baptist or with John the gospel writer, we might reasonably wonder what it means to say that Jesus is "God's lamb". Does the expression refer to the Passover lamb whose blood signifies liberation or deliverance? The imagery in John's gospel in relation to the death of Jesus might point in this direction. Is "God's lamb" the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 who assumes the sins of the many? Is it an image of the lamb that God provides for Abraham's sacrifice in Genesis 22? Is it evoking the apocalyptic lamb of Jewish literature of the time, the powerful conquering lamb that destroys evil in the world? Is it intended to suggest vulnerability

as in the prophecy of Jeremiah 11:19 ("I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter"). There is never a simple explanation when it comes to John's gospel, but it seems to me that the symbol of strength in vulnerability has potential for understanding the characterization of Jesus in this gospel. The Lamb of God of John 1:29 "takes away" the sinful condition of the world. Twenty-one centuries down the track there is still violence and hunger and exploitation on a massive scale. The work of the one strong enough to risk vulnerability so that others may have life, the work of God's Lamb, is never done. Witness to that is part of the gift that Pope Francis is offering to the world: despite opposition, even among those closest to him, he never wavers in his response to the distress of God's people and the distress of God's Earth.

The Weekday Readings are from Week 1 of Ordinary Time. Today Sunday January 19th is Week 2 of Ordinary Time.

The Staffs of our Schools will begin their year on Tuesday January 28th.

SBC will have a Staff Retreat at Coughlin Park on Tuesday & Wednesday Jan 28/29 with Fr Richard Leonard.

We will have the Blessing and Commissioning of our School Staffs at 10.30 Mass in SMJ Church on Sunday February 9th.

Classes begin for SBC and SMJ on Thursday January 30th.

COUNTRY MASS TIMES

19th January -
Dimboola 8.30am, Murtoa 8.30am, Kaniva 10.30am
26th January -
Natimuk Mass 8.30am.
Dimboola AWC 8.30am.
Murtoa AWC 10.30am
2nd Feb -
Murtoa 8.30am. Nhill 5pm.
Dimboola 12.15pm.



The Australian Bishop's Bushfire Relief Collections will be available at all Masses and both AWC— next weekend January 25/26 (Australia Day).

Please place donations in an envelope on the Collection or at the Parish Office. Thank you.

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tue 21 Jan 5.30pm St Agnes. Angela Kennedy anniv.
Wed 22 Jan 9.30am Sick.
Thu 23 Jan 9.30am **Bushfire and Drought victims**
Fri 24 Jan 9.30am **Mary Mc Bain Mass.** St Francis de Sales
Sat 25 Jan 10am Conversion of St Paul. Peter McLeish anniv.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, my creator, breathe on me, renew me, refresh me, extend my abilities, comfort me in adjusting to changes in health, mobility and activity. Body of Jesus Christ flow through every fibre of my being. Keep me well, and hope filled, always. Holy Spirit use me in my situation, for the good of others. Amen



Please Remember in Your Prayers

RECENT DEATHS: Mary McBain (Perth), Maurice Eckle

ANNIVERSARIES: Angela Kennedy, Marjorie McLennan, Gwen Coyne, Rita Higgins, Cath Liston, Peter McLeish, Harry Flynn, Pat Herbert

SICK: Brian Rice, Debbie Nolen, Fleur Armstrong, Ken Dowsley, Jill & Christie Higginbottom, Heather McPhee, Shilpa Joe, Joan Glen, John McNamara, Elsie Thomas

Emergency Care: Contact Parish Office 53821155

Confessions Saturday after Mass (10.25)

Saturday Morning Devotions:
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 to 9.20
Rosary 9.20. Prayer of the Church. 10am Mass

Next Sunday 4th Sunday of the Month
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 26th January

Horsham Saturday - 6.30pm. Sunday 10.30am

Natimuk **Mass 8.30am**

Dimboola **Sunday AWC 8.30am**

Murtoa **Sunday AWC 10.30am**

Rosary, Litany of Mary, Divine Mercy Chaplet
HORSHAM Wednesdays at 4.30pm. All welcome.

ROSTERS

Jan 18/19	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Geoff Simpson Anthony Amor Sr Jacinta Rice Bernadette Trounce Joan Parker Lorraine Clancy Pat Glaubitz	Mary Dalglish Andrea Cox Faye Wills Bob Pritchett Tim Lannen Alison McKinnon Kingsley Dalglish
Jan 25/26	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Betty Heinrich	Angela Murphy
Commentator	Sr Jacinta Rice	Dianne Noy
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Maree Plazzer Micky Robarts Cathy Taylor John Parker Simon Lynch Bob Hayes Anne Newton	Karen Hill Anna Robertson Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Rosie Taylor Zita Cannane Mary Dalglish
Projector	Anita Masiero	Shayne Keenan
Welcomers	Judy Bryan Pat Williams	Sharon Creasey Mary Dowsley
Music	Embedded	Embedded

Church Cleaning and Flowers:

Jan 26th: Lucille Perkin, Pauline Breen, Sue Chalkley, Judie Delahunty

Feb 2: Lynda Hutchinson, Helene Bush, Bernadette Delahunty

We welcome to the Family of God in Baptism this Sunday:

Archer Childs

Son of Shaun & Brianna
and

Patrick Brodie McKay
Son of James & Camille



First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5
 The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 39
 Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

2nd Reading: 1 Corin 1:1-3
 I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the

church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation: John 1
 Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:29-34
 Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)

Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$ 93.00
Horsham	\$ 912.00	Dimboola	\$ 70.00
Total		\$ 1085.00	

2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$ 1609.00	Loose	\$ 145.55
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit	\$
Total		\$ 1745.55	

Australia Day is next Sunday, January 26th 2020. Our Parish Masses will celebrate this theme.